

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

**Theodore H. H. Harris Local History Research Papers**  
**MS-020**

**ABSTRACT**

The papers contain two volumes of meeting minutes (1953-1964) for the L.B. Fouse Civic League, Inc., an African American civic organization in Covington, Kentucky. They also contain historical research files, which include news clippings, photographs, research notes, manuscript drafts, and published articles, created by Harris during his research on local African American history for entries to the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* and articles for other local history publications. The papers also have records from civic organizations on which Harris served as a member including the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission and the Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force as well as oral history interviews with Harris about his military service in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s and his research on the case of John Montjoy, an African American male executed in 1937 in Covington.

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Creators:** Harris, Theodore (Ted) H.H., 1944-

**Span Dates:** 1842-2015

**Bulk Dates:** 2002-2005

**Extent:** 3.55 linear feet; 3,133 MB. 2014 interview runs 58 minutes and 2015 interview runs 36 minutes.

**Languages:** The materials are in English.

**Repository Location:** Eva G. Farris Special Collections and Schlachter University Archives, W. Frank Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky

**ACCESS POINTS**

**Subjects:**

African Americans  
African American--History  
African Americans--Kentucky--Biography  
African Americans--Kentucky--History  
Alumnus--Northern Kentucky University  
History--Research

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

**Names:**

Harris, Theodore (Ted) H.H., 1944-  
Kentucky African American Heritage Commission  
L.B. Fouse Civic League, Inc. (Covington, Ky.)  
Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force  
Shaw, Thomas, 1846-1895

**Places:**

Covington (Ky.)  
Newport (Ky.)

## RELATED MATERIALS

**Publication Note:** Select articles from collection are published in Tenkotte, Paul A. and James C. Claypool, eds. *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009.

Contextual information about William Grant High School published in Stout, Louis. *Shadows of the Past*. Lexington: Host Communications, 2006.

## ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Theodore H. H. (Ted) Harris, member of the first graduating class (1973) of Northern Kentucky State College, is a historian and researcher from Covington, Kentucky who specializes in local and regional African American history. His mother, Easter Harris, was secretary for the L.B. Fouse Civic League, Inc. from 1957-1964. Harris attended Lincoln Grant Elementary School and William Grant High School in Covington. He served in the United States Navy from September 1962-1966 and the United States Navy Reserves from February 1971-April 1979. He has been published in several history publications including the *Northern Kentucky Heritage* and *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. He contributed 65 entries to the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*. Harris was a member of the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission (1994-2004), the executive committee of the Kentucky Historical Society (2000-2004), the Kentucky Underground Railroad Advisory Council (1998-2000), and a founding member and secretary of the Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force. He served on the board of the Linden Grove Cemetery (2012) and as auditor for Chapter 88, Vietnam Veterans of America.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Theodore H. H. Harris Local History Research Papers is organized into four series. **Series I, L.B. Fouse Civic League, Inc. Records**, contains two volumes

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

of meeting minutes (1953-1964). The L.B. Fouse Civic League, founded in March 1953, was a significant African American civic organization in Covington, Kentucky whose leaders and members were active in the Civil Rights movement and in providing social services for the community. The meeting minutes document the league's membership, events, projects, and finances.

**Series II, Historical Research Files**, contains research files on various topics related to local African American history created by Harris in preparation for writing entries on these topics for the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*. A few folders contain research and articles written for the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* including extensive research about Isaac E. Black, a 19<sup>th</sup> century African American lawyer. Researchers will find subject files on African American organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and individuals. The files include news clippings, photographs (mostly reproductions), research notes, photocopies of vital and census records, programs, brochures, manuscript drafts, and published articles. Researchers may be particularly interested in the file on Alice Shimfessel as she was president of the L.B. Fouse Civic League, Inc. The research files are arranged alphabetically according to Harris' original scheme. Folder titles listed are Harris' original titles.

**Series III, Historical Research**, contains completed research papers by Harris.

**Series IV, Personal Papers**, contains an oral history interview with Harris conducted by Lois Hamill and Anne Ryckbost about his U.S Navy experience in Vietnam in the 1960s and an interview with Harris conducted by Katie Bramell about his research on the 1937 trial and execution of John Montjoy in Covington, Kentucky. The research file (Covington's Legal Lynchings) is located in Series I. The series also contains papers from his involvement with two history-related civic organizations. *Subseries 1* includes materials from his tenure on the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission, which was a partnership with the Kentucky Heritage Council, the State Historic Preservation Office. It has reviews conducted by Harris on grant proposals made to the commission for African American history projects. *Subseries 2*, Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force (NKAHTF), has correspondence written by Harris as the task force's secretary; NKAHTF quarterly newsletters from 1995-2004 (incomplete); and programs, newsletters, and guides from historic sites, programs, and conferences.

## SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

The Theodore H. H. Harris Local History Research Papers is organized into four series: **I** L.B. Fouse Civic League, Inc. records, **II** historical research files, **III** historical research and **IV** personal papers.

## CONTAINER LISTING

Description	Date	Box	Folder
<b>Series I: L.B. Fouse Civic League Inc. Records</b>			
Meeting minutes, L.B. Fouse Civic League Inc.	March 1953-January 1957	1	1
Meeting minutes, L.B. Fouse Civic League Inc.	June 1957-September 1964	1	2
<b>Series II: Historical Research Files:</b>			
Personal correspondence about research	January 12, 1998	1	3
African American Boy Scout Troop No. 39, Covington, Ky.	1940s	7	19
African American Boy Scout Troop No. 59, Covington, Ky.	1940s	7	20
African American Businessmen's Association, Hall of Fame	1929-circa 2005	1	4
African Americans of Northern Kentucky	1860, 1956-2005	1	5
African Americans in World War II (European Theatre): Henry C. Lowe, Albert Nutter, Jr., George Frank Nutter, James H. Robinson, Melvin Waddell Walker	1940-2006, undated	1	6-8
African Americans in World War II (Pacific Theatre)	1944-2006, undated	1	9-11
Digital images of African American soldiers from Northern Kentucky in World War II: Henry Brown,	1940-1945		<a href="https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3685">https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3685</a>

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

William Brown, James Rucker, Unidentified civilians			
Anti-Separate Coach Movement in Ky.	1842, undated	8	1
History of the Anti-Separate Coach Movement in Kentucky, (photocopy of book)	1895	8	2
Ayers, Rhoda Mae (Politician)	1976-2005	1	12
Bacchus, Percival L. (Medical Doctor)	1955-2005	1	13
Bailey, William Shreve (Abolitionist)	1860, circa 2004	2	1
Berry, Theodore M. (Lawyer and Mayor)	circa 1955-2004	2	2
Black, Isaac E. (Lawyer)	1870-2004, undated	2	3-20
		3	1-11
Digital images related to Isaac E. Black	undated	see staff	see staff
Black business in Covington	1993	3	12
Black businesses in Louisville, Ky. as compared to Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Ky.	undated	3	13
Black businessmen in Covington, Ky.	1993, undated	3	14
Black churches in Northern Kentucky, 1864-1970	1988, 1995, undated	8	3
Blackburn, William (Pastor, G.A.R. Post)	1876-1898, 2004	3	15
Brean, David Z. (Artist)	1930, 1956, 2006	3	16
Butler-Ross, Tracey (Dentist)	1991	3	17
Carneal House and the Underground Railroad in Campbell and Kenton Counties (Ky.)	1842-1999	3, 4	18-20, 1-4
Digital images of Carneal House and Underground	undated	see staff	see staff

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

Railroad in Campbell and Kenton Counties (Ky.)			
Clair, Bishop Matthew, 9 <sup>th</sup> Methodist Church, Kentucky Post	January 16, 1995	4	5
Coleman, John H. (Real Estate)	1943, circa 2005	4	6
Corinthian Baptist Church, Newport, Ky. (includes church programs)	1871-2004	4	7-8
Covington's legal lynchings	1935-2015	8	4
Delaney, John W., Jr. (Lawyer and Judge)	1927, 1958-2004	4	9
Eastside (Covington, Ky.)	1871-2005	4	10-11
First Baptist Church (Covington, Ky.)	1924-2004, undated	4	12
Florence Baptist Church, Florence, Ky.	1870-1908	8	5
Fouse, William H. and Elizabeth "Lizzie"	1900-1952, 2005	4	13
Gaines, Wallace A. (Businessman; Undertaker)	1800-2004	4	14-15
Grant, William L. (Politician)	1874-2004	4	16
Hargraves, William F., II. (Colonel and USAF Pilot)	1956-2004	4	17
Henderson, Charles L. (WWI and American Legion Post 3166)	1919-2006	4	18
Hopewell Baptist Church, Beaver Creek, Boone County, Ky.	circa 1895-1897	8	6
Horner, Charles D. (Educator)	1899-2004	4	19
Horner, Charles E. (Medical Doctor), Newport, Ky.	1936-1948, 2001-2004	4	20
Howard, B.F. and the Elks Lodge, Covington, Ky.	1986-1998, undated	5	1-2
Hutchinson, Conrad Jr. (Marching Band)	1946-1996	5	3
Johnson, Donald (Athlete)	2005	5	4
Johnson, William C. (Pastor)	1981-2005	5	5
Jones, Charles Edward (Businessman)	1931-2004	5	6

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

Jones, Fredrick M. (Inventor)	1918-2004	5	7-9
Kelly, Adam D. (Medical Doctor)	1919-circa 2004	5	10
Kirk, Andy (Musician)	1920-2004	5	11
Lacey, Eugene F. (Gene) (Businessman)	1900-2004	5	12
Digital images of Lane Chapel members and choir	1939, 1945	see staff	see staff
Lane Chapel CME Church, Covington, Ky.	1933, undated	8	7
Lane, William L. (Catholic Priest)	1965-2005	5	13
Littleton, Robert (Civil Rights)	1882-1909, 2004	5	14
Macedonia Baptist Church, Covington, Ky.	1948-1964	8	8
Martin, William H. (Henry), Jr. (Businessman)	1910, 1952, 2004	5	15
McLeod, John C. (Medical Doctor)	1876-2004	6	1
Merritt, John A. (Educator, Coach)	1983-2006	6	2
Model-Evans Pharmacy (Noble Evans)	1930-1932, 2005	6	3
Morgan, Garrett A. (Inventor)	1910-2004	6	4
Mountain Island, Owen County (Ky.)	1986-2004	6	5
Ninth Street Baptist Church, Covington, Ky.	1969, 1985	8	9
Ninth Street United Methodist Church, Covington, Ky.	1994, undated	8	10
Northern Kentucky Brotherhood Singers (Music)	1996-2005	6	6
Old Savior Catholic Church/School (Covington)	1944-2004	6	7
Payne, William H. ("Che") (Civil Rights)	1970, circa 2004	6	8
Price, Rev. Jacob (Pastor, Civil Rights, Businessman)	1869-2007	6	9-10

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

Progressive Building and Loan Association	1906-1927, 2004	6	11
Randolph, James E. (Medical Doctor)	1997, 2004	6	12
Rippleton, Washington (Civil Rights)	1892-1911, 2004	6	13
Saint James AME Church, Covington, Ky.	1987, undated	8	11
Saint Paul AME Church (Newport)	1880-2006	6	14-15
Second Baptist Church (Newport)	1979, 2001-2004	6	16
Shaw, Thomas, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant (Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor)	1982-2004	6	17
Shimfessel, Alice T. (Civil Rights), Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky	1955-2005	6	18
Simpson, Arnold R. (Lawyer, City Manager, State Rep.)	1986-2004	7	1
Simpson, James, Jr. (Businessman, Politician)	1971-1999, 2004	7	2
Southgate Street School (Newport, Ky.)	1893-2004, undated	7	3-5
Student National Coordinating Committee, (SNCC) newspaper	September-October, 1970?	8	12 see also O/S SC Newspaper Box 1
Sudduth, Horace Stanley (Businessman)	1931-2004	7	6
Thacker, Thomas (Athlete)	1956, 1982-2004	7	7
Toney, John Edward (Law Enforcement)	1948, 1974, 2005	7	8
Vinegar, Theodore R. (Farmer)	1983-2007	7	9-10
Walker, Melvin W. (WWII, US Army Major, Educator)	1929, 1945-2002	7	11
Watkins, Simon J. (Medical Doctor)	1892-2004	7	12
White, Clarence C. (Musician, Educator)	1937-1960, 2005	7	13
Woods, Granville T. (Inventor)	1889-2005	7	14



Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

Walton Baptist Church and Zion Baptist Church (Walton, Ky.)	1877-2005	7	15-16
Published materials on African American History	1914-1993	7	17-18
<b>Series III: Historical Research</b>			
The Life and Times of a Buffalo Soldier, Sergeant Thomas Shaw	1999		<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/11216/3683">http://hdl.handle.net/11216/3683</a>
<b>Series IV: Personal Papers</b>			
Oral history interview with Ted Harris by Lois Hamill and Anne Ryckbost	March 18, 2014	see staff	
Oral history interview with Ted Harris by Katie Bramell	November 3, 2015	See staff	
<b>Subseries 1: Kentucky African American Heritage Commission</b>			
Grant proposal reviews	1997	9	1-2
<b>Subseries 2: NKAATF</b>			
Correspondence and notes	1993, undated	9	3
Newsletters	1995-2004	9	4-5
Programs, newsletters, guides from historic sites, conferences, and programs	1993, 2001, undated	9	6

## CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

**Conditions Governing Access:** This collection is open for research access.

**Physical Access:** Two images of Lane Chapel in Covington, Kentucky (1939, 1945) can be viewed with assistance from archives staff.

Contact staff for access to digital audio and video recordings of the oral history interviews.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:** The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, US Code) governs the reproduction of copyrighted material. The

Special Collections and University Archives  
W. Frank Steely Library  
Northern Kentucky University

User assumes full responsibility and any attendant liability for the fair use of materials requested in total compliance with the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) that may arise through the use of any requested materials.

Copyright for final draft of entries to *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* belongs to the University Press of Kentucky. Copyright for material Harris published elsewhere (e.g. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, *Kentucky Post*) will be governed by the policy of the respective publication. Research files contain photocopies of published material not written by Harris. This material is subject to U.S. Copyright law. Copyright to six digital images of WWII Okinawa, Japan belongs to George Rubin Offutt, Sr., (deceased February 1, 1984). Copyright for images of Carneal House belongs to Cincinnati Bell, Inc. *The Life and Times of a Buffalo Soldier, Sergeant Thomas Shaw, 9<sup>th</sup> United States Cavalry: Medal of Honor Recipient* copyrighted by Theodore H. H. Harris, 2000.

**Preferred Citation:** [Box #, Folder #], MS-20 Theodore H.H. Harris Local History Research Papers, Eva G. Farris Special Collections, W. Frank Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University

## ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Gift from Theodore H. H. Harris in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015; Gift from Katie Bramell, 2015 (NKU2012-011; NKU2013-011; NKU2013-012; NKU2014-016; NKU2015-009; NKU2015-013, NKU2020-009)

## NOTES

**Processing Information:** Processed by Anne Ryckbost, spring 2013. Additional processing in June 2013, September 2013, May 2016. New accretion April 2021.

---

harris\_finding\_aid\_ver4\_template.docx  
1<sup>st</sup> ver: 2013/04/11, A. Ryckbost  
Last ver: 2016/12/08, AR  
Last rev: 2021/04/13, LH new materials added